

REMARKS

Prosecution

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 57, 63-69, 74, 76-77, 79, and 81 are allowable. See Advisory Action at 2. The only remaining issue relates to claims 85-86. Applicants are canceling these claims and therefore respectfully request a Notice of Allowability.

Claim Amendments

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 57, 63-69, 71, 74, 76-77, 79, and 81 are pending in the application. Please cancel claims 85 and 86 without prejudice or disclaimer thereto. Applicants submit that entry of this amendment is proper as it relates merely to cancellation of two rejected claims to leave pending only those claims already indicated to recite allowable subject matter. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 85-86 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '293 patent in view of Audtho *et al.*; and further in view of Schenpf *et al.*; and in further view of U.S. Patent 6,294,711; U.S. Patent 6,489,542; and U.S. Patent 6,114,608. Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse this rejection.

While not acquiescing to the rejection, Applicants have cancelled claims 85 and 86 to expedite allowance of the instant application. This rejection is has now been rendered *moot*. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the remaining pending claims.

CONCLUSION


Applicants respectfully submits that claims 57, 63-69, 71, 74, 76-77, 79, and 81 are in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that any patentability issues remain after consideration of this Response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to discuss and resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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